AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A color characteristic description apparatus for producing color characteristic data for use when supplied image data is converted into output image data and for producing an identifier, the color characteristic description apparatus comprising:

multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table having which is produced by said color characteristic description apparatus; wherein color characteristic points representing the supplied image data; and which is produced by said color characteristic description apparatus incorporates data obtained by

multidimensional lookup table compression means for compressing said multidimensional lookup table, and

wherein the color characteristic data, which is produced by the color characteristic description apparatus, includes the compressed multidimensional lookup table an and the identifier, which identifies for identifying a restoring method for restoring the

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compressed multidimensional lookup table.

7. (currently amended) A color characteristic description apparatus for producing color characteristic data for use when supplied image data is converted into output image data, comprising:

multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table having which is produced by said color characteristic description apparatus, wherein color characteristic points representing the supplied image data; and which is produced by said color characteristic description apparatus incorporates data obtained by

multidimensional lookup table compression means for compressing said multidimensional lookup table, and

wherein the color characteristic data, which is produced by the color characteristic description apparatus, includes the compressed multidimensional lookup table and software for restoring the compressed multidimensional lookup table data.

8. (original) A color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 7, wherein color characteristic data which is produced by said color characteristic description apparatus further incorporates an identifier for identifying a restoring method for

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restoring compressed data and software for converting the restored multidimensional lookup table into an ICC profile.

Claims 9-16 (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A color characteristic description apparatus comprising:

a multidimensional lookup table producer for producing a multidimensional lookup table; and

a compressor for compressing said multidimensional lookup table,

wherein said color characteristic description apparatus outputs color characteristic data, which includes said compressed multidimensional lookup table and an identifier for identifying a restoring method for restoring said compressed multidimensional lookup table.

18. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said multidimensional lookup table is produced in accordance with color characteristics of a digital camera.

19. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 18, wherein color characteristics of said digital camera are measured by a colorimeter.

20. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said outputted color characteristic data is synthesized with image data.

21. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said identifier further identifies a repairing method for repairing said compressed multidimensional lookup table.

22. (previously presented) A method of outputting color characteristic data from a digital camera, said method comprising the steps of:

producing a multidimensional lookup table in a color characteristic description apparatus;

compressing said multidimensional lookup table in said color characteristic description apparatus;

outputting said color characteristic data from said color characteristic description apparatus, said color characteristic

data including said compressed multidimensional lookup table and
an identifier for identifying a restoring method for restoring said
compressed multidimensional lookup table; and

synthesizing said outputted color characteristic data with
image data, which is then outputted as camera output data.